



FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Helena Miller • Helena.miller@lbc.ac.uk



From East to West, attending the NRJE Conferences certainly gives members a chance to travel across America – New York in 2006, Los Angeles in 2007. As you read Rami Wernik’s and Ofra Backenroth’s articles, advertising the Conference that the NRJE will be holding this coming June in Los Angeles, I hope you will all feel that the journey is justified. Whilst a few of us work voluntarily for the Network, organising the Conferences, attending to the finances, editing this newsletter, and much more, it only works as an organisation because of the participants at our main Network event, our annual Conference. Where would you get a better opportunity to engage in high level debate about current educational research and practice in a wide range of aspects of Jewish Education? When else would you be offered the chance to present your research in a variety of traditional and imaginative formats to colleagues who are significantly able to help you to develop your thinking? For many of us, the Conference provides the impetus to pursue our research interests. For those of us travelling from the UK, Europe and Israel, the journey will be almost as many hours as the Conference. But it will be worth it. I look forward to seeing you there.

Chag Pesach sameach.

ARTICLES FOR THE FALL 2007 NEWSLETTER SHOULD REACH ME BY SEPTEMBER 20, 2007.

Helena.miller@lbc.ac.uk

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MUSINGS FROM THE CHAIR

Lisa Grant • lgrant@huc.edu



The winter months represent the busiest period in the NRJE calendar aside from our annual conference. I continue to marvel at the dedication of so many individuals who sustain and support our organization's growth. From December through May, a small team of dedicated people work hard on reviewing proposals, providing feedback to presenters, and planning the program for our annual conference which takes place this year on

June 1-3 at the University of Judaism in Los Angeles. We are most fortunate to have Ofra Backenroth and Rami Wernik as our wonderful 2007 program and conference chairs this year. It has been nine years since the NRJE was last in Los Angeles and we are excited that the University of Judaism will be our host for the first time. As usual, the conference promises to include a rich array of papers, panels, and special programs, a preview of which can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. We are especially pleased that the program includes a mix of NRJE veterans and newcomers as well.

The other significant activities this winter include the development of our first formal membership outreach plan. Leah Strigler has been instrumental in getting us to this point and she has recently been joined by Simone Schweber. Both have invested their time and creative energy to develop a plan to further engage several key groups in activities of the NRJE, including graduate students, academics in fields related to Jewish education, and Jewish educational practitioners who are users of research and may be engaged in action research themselves. We will see the first results of their efforts at this year's conference with the addition of two new programs: a panel for graduate students to share their research, and another panel on job hunting and mentoring for graduate students. We are also pleased that Jeffrey Kress will be coming on board this outreach initiative this summer as co-chair with Simone as Leah rotates off.

Other activities this winter include the hard work of Diane Schuster and her committee to solicit and review applications for the NRJE Young Scholar's award which will be announced at our June conference. Helena Miller continues as our dedicated newsletter editor, and our incredible team of Rebecca Halpin, Wendy Rosov, and Leora Isaacs at JESNA have kept us on track with the many administrative challenges even a tiny organization such as ours faces on a day to day basis.

Thus, while we remain a "virtual" organization in that we rarely come together face-to-face, in fact, there is a remarkable group of individuals who give of themselves to make the Network work. And, we are always looking for new ideas and new people to help the organization continue to fulfill its core mission to support and disseminate research and to develop a strong community of researchers to generate new knowledge that will strengthen Jewish education. It is a great privilege to be part of this effort.

Please join us in Los Angeles this June for another great NRJE production!!

NETWORK CONFERENCE 2007

Ofra Backenroth, Program Chair • ofra.backenroth@gmail.com

It takes a leap of imagination to think about sunny Los Angeles in a grey and dreary February day on the east coast. But June is not far away and in June 3rd we will meet at the beautiful campus of University of Judaism for the 21st annual Conference of the Network for Research in Jewish Education. This year's conference promises to be an exciting event. The papers, spotlights and consultations that will be offered are diverse, interesting, and of the highest quality.

This year, we have a series of spotlight sessions that examine different areas of Jewish educational research. Spotlight sessions are intended to spark dialogue and broaden thinking about key issues in our field. Alex Pomson will lead a spotlight presentation titled The case of cases: Exploring alternatives in the design of engaging Jewish educational research. In focus-group approach, the presenter will invite audience members to share their reactions to the different research formats. Shira Hecht will lead a spotlight presentation about Israel education From Teen Leadership to Special Interest Travel: Conceptualizing Israel Impact for Teen Travel Programs. Sharon Feinman Nemser will present a spot light session about Jewish Mothers as (Jewish) Educators based on Joyce Antler forthcoming book *You Never Call, You Never Write: A Cultural History of the Jewish Mother*, in which she will explore what history and popular culture tell us about how Jewish mothers served as (Jewish) educators.

Various papers will be presented during the three days of the conference. We will hear presentations about Sara Lee, Jessie Sampter and the Hadassah School of Zionism. Other paper will explore professional leadership development in informal Jewish education, havruta learning, college students' encounter with biblical criticism, research on teenagers from interfaith families, education for responsibility, and exploration of the spiritual lives of Rabbis.

Finally, doctoral students as well as seasoned researchers will present a series of more informal "consultation over coffee" sessions. These sessions will give us the opportunity to come together drink coffee, and consult with each other about works in progress and research papers in initial stages. We hope that these consultation sessions will be received with friendly and supportive audience. Coffee and dessert consultations will include subjects such as: professional needs of Rabbi-Educators, leadership in Jewish camping, teaching pluralism in Jewish day schools, and we will hear about the Tel-Aviv Los Angeles twin school program.

I am looking forward to see all of you and share with you the stimulating collaboration and warm collegiality at

THE NETWORK FOR RESEARCH
IN JEWISH EDUCATION
The ANNUAL CONFERENCE • JUNE 4 - 6, 2007
University of Judaism
Los Angeles, California

2007 NETWORK CONFERENCE

Rami Wernik, *Conference Chair* • rwernik@uj.edu

The University of Judaism in Los Angeles will host the 2007 Network Conference, from June 3-5. The UJ was founded in 1947, a product of the vision of Dr. Mordecai Kaplan, who dreamed of an institution that would celebrate the remarkable variety of Jewish life in the 20th century. Today, the UJ proudly emphasizes the religious and cultural foundations of Judaism, and is home to an art gallery, sculpture garden, performing arts center, and institutes that champion Jewish family life, research and public policy. The UJ offers an undergraduate college, graduate degree programs in education and non-profit management, and a rabbinical school affiliated with the Conservative Movement. Our Department of Continuing Education serves thousands of students annually.

From the campus, visitors look out at the Santa Monica Mountains to the west, and the San Fernando Valley to the north. Just off the 405 freeway, the UJ is minutes away from the Getty Museum and the Skirball Cultural Center. Guests arriving early to the conference can choose from Shabbat services at 202 synagogues, proximity to Hollywood and other entertainment venues, and countless kosher restaurants for every taste and budget. The sun is (almost) always shining, and with an average temperature of 66° F – you can't beat the weather in LA.

I look forward to seeing you in June, and to a vibrant conference of research, discussion and collaboration.

L'shalom,
Rami Wernik

JESNA ANNOUNCES KEY SENIOR MANAGEMENT CHANGES

JESNA is pleased to announce the appointments, effective January 1, 2007, of Dr. Leora Isaacs as Director of JESNA's newly established Learnings and Consultation Center and Dr. Wendy Rosov as Director of the Berman Center of Research and Evaluation for Jewish Education at JESNA.

After joining the JESNA staff as a research associate in 1987, Leora became the Founding Director of the Berman Center in 1992. Under her leadership the Berman Center has grown to become a field leader for program evaluation in the Jewish community. Leora is now undertaking the exciting charge of establishing JESNA's new Learnings and Consultation Center (LCC). Part think tank, part consulting practice and part community forum, the LCC will combine cutting edge thinking about Jewish education with the most effective dissemination methodologies. Leora is working with JESNA's expert program staff team to implement our signature strategies of learning, dissemination and application. In her role as Vice President for Programs and Organizational Learning, and working in close collaboration with Wendy, Leora will lead the LCC team will help ensure that the empirical knowledge gained through the outstanding work of the Berman Center and the learnings from field experience will be maximally useful and used by the field.

Wendy joined the JESNA staff in 2000, and became Associate Director of the Berman Center in 2004. Her keen analytic skills, knowledge of all facets of the field of Jewish education and expertise in research and evaluation techniques have made her one of the leading researchers and evaluators of educational and identity-building programs in the Jewish community. Her outstanding teaching and coaching skills place her in great demand as a presenter of workshops and seminars on all aspects of evaluation to diverse audiences including program providers, as well as Foundation, Federation and Central Agency professionals and lay leaders. Wendy has further contributed greatly to effectiveness of the Berman Center. She has been instrumental in instituting efficient business practices and operational management that have enabled the Berman Center and its staff to function more effectively. We look forward to the continued growth of the Berman Center under Wendy's leadership in coming years.

Leora and Wendy are both important members of JESNA's Senior Management Team, helping lead the agency in its exciting new directions.

TRAVEL AWARDS FOR NRJE

Jeff Kress, *Chair, Travel Awards Committee*
jekress@jtsa.edu

Participants at the NRJE conference who need assistance with meeting travel costs are invited to apply for a subsidy by **April 15**.

Notice of awards will be provided by May 1.

In applying for a subsidy, applicants must confirm they have no other institutional means for covering their travel expenses to the conference.

Awards of up to \$300 will be given. The number of awards is contingent on available funds.

At the time of the conference, applicants must present proof of costs incurred (in the form of receipts, ticket-stubs, etc) and will receive their award by mail as soon as possible thereafter.

In the event of applications exceeding the money set aside for awards, priority will be given first to conference presenters, then to graduate students, and thereafter to other conference participants.

Please send your application to me and indicate if you are presenting at the conference and/or you are a graduate student.

Please also include an itemized projection of travel costs (not including conference registration fees).

NRJE CONFERENCE 2007 REGISTRATION

Rebecca Halpin, *NRJE Administrator*
rhalpin@jesna.org

We are thrilled to announce that registration for the 2007 NRJE Conference, to be held June 3-5 at the University of Judaism in Los Angeles, is now open. The registration form can be found on the NRJE website (www.nrje.org).

Please note that registration forms and payment should be mailed to the JESNA New York office as instructed on the form, NOT to Taylor & Francis. However, those registering for the conference who are not yet re-registered for the 2007 membership year will need to renew their membership through Taylor & Francis directly.

WORK IN PROGRESS AT THE MANDEL CENTER: SPRING 2007

Jon A. Levisohn • Levisohn@brandeis.edu

At the Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education at Brandeis University, the present academic year has witnessed the publication of a number of research papers on the Center's website and in peer-reviewed journals. The Beit Midrash Research Project, which studies the Beit Midrash for Teachers (a component of the DeLeT teacher education program, about which more below) published a suite of article in volume 72 of the *Journal of Jewish Education*; the Pluralism Project, a pilot study of the enactment of pluralism in a multi-denominational Jewish high school, posted two working papers on the project's website; and the Initiative on Bridging Scholarship and Pedagogy in Jewish Studies, which convenes scholars and educators from multiple settings to pursue the scholarship of teaching in classical Jewish studies, has a number of papers both available on the website and submitted for peer review.

In addition to papers, the Bridging Initiative has posted videos of sessions from its 2005 conference on Teaching Bible and from the 2005 NRJE conference, and has also published a working bibliography of articles and books about the teaching of classical Jewish studies, to which visitors are encouraged to contribute via a form on the website. Researchers at the Mandel Center have also submitted articles to venues such as *Jewish Educational Leadership* and to *schmoozED* <<http://schmoozed.lookstein.org/>>, and have developed a pilot multimedia case of the teaching of *parashat ha-*

shavua, available for viewing on the website. This last item, a different kind of research product, is particularly exciting; in the future, we imagine a whole library of multimedia cases that display and explore innovative practices in Jewish education.

This year, the Bridging Initiative has expanded its focus to the teaching of rabbinic literature, conducting a research seminar for a group of teachers, rabbis, and academics, with the goal of generating a new set of papers on the topic. Projects underway include explorations of the teaching of rabbinic literature in an adult education setting, from the pulpit, in a university classroom, and in day schools. For more information about the seminar or the project, please visit <go.brandeis.edu/bridging>. Planning is already underway for a conference on Teaching Rabbinic Literature at Brandeis, on January 27-28, 2008. Mark your calendars! If you're interested in receiving information, please let us know by filling out the form on the website.

Another major project at the Center, the Induction Partnership, is now completing its second of three planned years, supported in part by a grant from the Covenant Foundation. The project has adopted a particular strategy in strengthening the practice of beginning teachers: rather than simply providing mentors to the teachers, the project has worked directly with five Jewish day schools to develop those schools' internal capacity for healthy induction of novices – as well as developing the schools' culture of teacher learning more

generally. After the two years of program implementation, the third and final year of the project (2007-2008) will be devoted to data analysis, writing, and dissemination of findings. One research product will be a set of institutional case studies, to help others learn about the opportunities for and barriers to quality induction programs in Jewish day schools.

This year has also been a year of transition, as the DeLeT program ends its five-year pilot and transitions to its permanent status at the Mandel Center at Brandeis and at HUC-JIR in Los Angeles. Founded by Laura Lauder and a group of extraordinary philanthropists, the two DeLeT sites have created innovative teacher-education programs from scratch, based on intensive year-long clinical internships under the supervision of experienced mentor-teachers. The impact of these programs lies not merely in the number of well-prepared beginning teachers for Jewish day schools but also in the establishment of strong university-school partnerships, the development of mentoring capacity at the schools, the promotion of the importance of teacher learning as the key to student learning, and the creation of a new field-based model for Jewish day school teacher education.

For more information about DeLeT, please visit <www.delet.org>, which serves as a portal to both programs. And for more information about these and other projects at the Mandel Center, please visit our website at <www.brandeis.edu/mandel>.

National Ramah Commission Announces Conference to Celebrate 60 Years of Ramah Camping

The National Ramah Commission will be hosting a conference celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Ramah Camping Movement on Sunday, October 14, 2007 at The Jewish Theological Seminary.

The theme of this conference is “Onward from 60: Shishim Shanah V’Halach.”

Onward from 60 Events

A variety of events are planned for this celebration, including:

- a keynote address by JTS’s new Chancellor, Dr. Arnie Eisen, on the importance of Ramah camping to the Conservative Movement and North American Jewry;
- a DVD presentation on 60 years of Ramah camping with footage from all the camps;
- a panel discussion with many of Ramah’s leading lay leaders and funders;
- opportunities for learning, singing, dancing, and reminiscing;
- various discussions regarding the future of Ramah camping; and
- a festive dinner and evening celebration, with entertainment featuring current and recent Ramah professionals in dance, music, and theater.

Onward from 60 will be attended by Ramah professionals and lay leaders from all of our camps, as well as by Ramah staff members, alumni, and professionals in the fields of Jewish camping and Jewish education.

Request for Proposals for Conference Presentations

The Onward from 60 conference will serve as an opportunity to highlight the achievements, impact, and innovations of Ramah camping. To this end, we are currently accepting proposals for presentations to be made at this conference.

Suggested topics include, but are not limited to:

- innovations in the spheres of educational and recreational programming, leadership training, board development, funding strategies, etc.; and
- the impact of Ramah on various segments of society, including olim, shlichim, Jewish professionals, children and adults with special needs, college students, and Ramah marriages.

A wide variety of methods and formats may be suggested for presentation, including research projects, programmatic descriptions, and personal reflections.

If you are interested in proposing a topic to present at *Onward from 60*, please email a one-page proposal by **January 31, 2007** to Rabbi Mitchell Cohen at mcohen@jtsa.edu. This proposal should include your full contact information a

brief statement of your topic of interest, and your anticipated format of presentation. We anticipate printing many of the presented papers in a new publication on Ramah at 60.

Tens of thousands of Ramah alumni from all our camps have been impacted in wonderful ways by their experiences at Ramah. We would also like to include, as part of this conference and as part of the publication on Ramah at 60, some of the best Ramah stories we can collect. Please feel free to email those to us as well.

Thank you for your support and potential participation in this important project.

Onward from 60 Conference Co-Chairs

Morton M. Steinberg

President, National Ramah Commission

Rabbi Mitchell Cohen

Director, National Ramah Commission

Amy Skopp Cooper

Assistant Director, National Ramah Commission

Director, Ramah Day Camp in Nyack

Dr. Jeffrey S. Kress

Assistant Professor of Jewish Education,

The Jewish Theological Seminary

Senior Research Associate, The William

Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education

MERKAZ I.T. L’MORIM

Merkaz i.t. L’Morim, a co-operative program involving York University and the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education of Greater Toronto, is pleased to announce its summer course, Themes in Modern Hebrew Literature. The course will be taught by Yael Seliger and will run from June 24-August 5. Worth one full National Board of License or Ontario Midrasha L’Morim credit, course texts will be offered in English and Hebrew. For more information and registration, visit:

www.yorku.ca/abel/merkaz or contact Avital Feuer at avital_feuer@edu.yorku.ca.

UPDATE ON THE DOCTORAL STUDENTS IN JEWISH EDUCATION CIRCLE

Renee Rubin Ross • rjr300@nyu.edu

The Doctoral Students in Jewish Education circle had another productive meeting in New York in early February with representatives from the Jewish Theological Seminary, New York University, Teachers' College, and Yeshiva University. We will be co-sponsoring several sessions at the NRJE conference in Los Angeles in June, as follows:

a) We will be holding a meeting time for networking and support for doctoral students. We've already done this twice in the past year in New York City, last year in June and again at the beginning of February. During this time, we meet each other, share a bit about our research, and any issues that we need support about—for example, balancing school and work, moving our research forward, work with advisors, etc. This will be held at a time that does not conflict with other conference sessions, so that doctoral students will not have to choose between this meeting and other conference events. The hosts of this event will be Hilary Greenberg, Meredith Katz, and Tali Hyman.

b) We would like to convene a panel on "Finding Employment with a doctorate in Jewish Education." To put this in context, this kind of session is held at meetings of many academic organizations. This event would be open to all conference participants. We are currently seeking panelists from the NRJE who could speak on this topic. If you are interested, please contact Tali Hyman at teh220@nyu.edu.

For more information about these events or the Doctoral Student in Jewish Education circle, contact Hilary at hjgds@aol.com, Meredith at 2mlk@netzero.net or Tali at teh220@nyu.edu. If you are a doctoral student, you can also join our yahoo e-group and stay in touch with group events—the group is called "DSJE."

Network for Research in Jewish Education YOUNG SCHOLARS AWARD

In 1999, the Network for Research in Jewish Education established a Young Scholars Fund designed to assist graduate students through annual grants in support of individual research projects.

These grants:

- are awarded yearly to individuals who are members of the Network
- will be considered for amounts from \$500 to \$2000
- may be used for expenses such as books and publications, travel (to attend conferences or to conduct research), technical and/or clerical support, purchase of equipment, and child-care.

Award criteria

Projects are evaluated for their quality of exposition, the potential for the goals of the project being realized, their engagement with relevant literatures, and especially for their contribution to the scholarship of Jewish education. Award-winning projects are ones that have the potential to present significant advances in knowledge or in methodology to carry the field forward.

Application process

By March 30, 2007, submit

- A 2-3 page description of the research project.
- A letter that explains the anticipated impact on the field of Jewish education, the way in which the project and applicant's career path will involve ongoing participation and contribution to research in Jewish education, the progress made to date, and how the Award funds will enable the applicant to conduct/complete the research. Include in this letter the name of the program in which the applicant is enrolled and the name(s) of those guiding the applicant's research.
- A brief letter of support from the applicant's research advisor or departmental chair.
- A budget for the funds being requested. [Please note that, in accordance with IRS regulations, recipients of the Young Scholars Award will be responsible, within two years of receipt of the award, for substantiating the use of funds in accordance with the permitted purposes, as listed above.]

The Awards Committee will acknowledge receipt of all Letters of Intent and will request further information if necessary. Young Scholar Awards will be announced at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Network for Research in Jewish Education.

Please send all documents as email attachments to:

Diane Tickton Schuster, Chair
Young Scholars Awards Committee
dt.schuster@verizon.net

The NRJE Young Scholar Awards: Whatever Became of....?

Diane Tickton Schuster, *Chair, Young Scholar Awards Committee* • Dt.schuster@verizon.net

In 1999, the Network for Research in Jewish Education established a Young Scholars Fund designed to assist graduate students through annual grants in support of individual research projects. These grants are awarded yearly to individuals who are members of the Network. Applicant projects are evaluated for their quality of exposition, the potential for the goals of the project being realized, their engagement with relevant literatures, and especially for their contribution to the scholarship of Jewish education. Award-winning projects are ones that have the potential to present significant advances in knowledge or in methodology to carry the field forward.

Ten Young Scholars have received the Awards to date: Ofra Backenroth (2001); Susie Tanchel, and Meredith Katz (2002); Miriam Heller Stern, Ben Jacobs, and Barry Kislowicz (2003); Tracy Kaplowitz (2004); Beth Cousens and Allen Selis (2005); and Tali Hyman (2006).

I recently asked these former Award winners to bring me up to date on their activities and to share with the Network how the Young Scholars Award had helped them to advance their work. Ofra, Susie, Ben, and Barry have completed dissertations and our other “ABDs” are busy writing. Meredith, Miriam, and

Ben have been producing on another front as well: four babies now serve as research assistants to their harried scholar parents!

Currently all the Awardees are affiliated with institutions that provide Jewish education: Ofra and Meredith at JTS, Susie at the Gann Academy-New Jewish High School of Boston, Miriam at the University of Judaism, Ben at the University of Minnesota, Barry at Fuchs Mizrahi High School in Cleveland, Tracy at the UJA-Federation of New York, Beth at Hillel International, Allen at the Solomon Schechter Day School of Bergen County, and Tali at HUC-Los Angeles.

Support from the Network enabled our Young Scholars to travel to observation and archival research sites, obtain hard-to-find and thus expensive primary sources, purchase digital video equipment or computers that facilitated data collection and analysis, build libraries of Jewish educational resources, and hire child care during periods of field work.

Today the Young Scholar Award winners continue to be engaged in Jewish educational research, probing a wide range of topics. For example,

• **Ofra Backenroth** is “still interested in the connection between art, education

and Jewish texts.” She is writing about a museum educator looking at museum education as a constructivist approach to education. Her next project is about “the possible connections to texts and synagogue life as a result of activities in visual art and music.”

• **Susie Tanchel** is “interested in the teaching of Tanakh—particularly the teaching of modern critical approaches in community Jewish day school settings and how teachers use and hold their subject matter knowledge for the purposes of teaching Torah texts.”

• **Barry Kislowicz** is “still very interested in the question of Jewish moral development and the creation of effective moral school communities — the questions that originally led me to my focus on Kohlberg.” Barry’s current role as a principal has also sparked interest in research on teacher supervision and professional development.

• **Allen Selis** is “increasingly interested in differentiation of Jewish studies curriculum.” He remains “engaged by the question of pluralistic community that motivated my funded research project.”

• **Beth Cousens** asks: “What does a visions project in Jewish life on campus look like? How does plural-

ism work on campus? Can we create and sustain a model of non-denominational Jewish life after college? How can an infrastructure for post-college Jewish life be created?”

• **Tali Hyman** is “interested in the processes of Jewish identity formation in adults, teens, and children.” In her dissertation research, Tali explored conflict in the setting of a community Jewish high school. She hopes in the future to explore “strategies of cultural navigation amidst multiple valued but often dissonant aspects of Jewish identity.”

In sharing their news, the NRJE Scholars demonstrated their eagerness to contribute not only to research in Jewish education, but also to help others who endeavor to engage in Jewish scholarship. As one recipient wrote: “Now that I am gainfully employed, I would like to contribute to the Young Scholars Award fund in recognition of how the award helped me.” All contributions to the Young Scholars Award Fund are most welcome. Checks for the Fund can be made out to the NRJE and sent to Rebecca Halpin at JESNA, 111 8th Avenue New York, NY 10011.

Preparation for Teaching in Religious Schools Program: Teaching in Jewish Schools Track ANNOUNCEMENT

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION • UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

This exciting new program will be launched on a pilot basis during the first summer session beginning in May, 2007. It is designed to prepare teachers for working in Jewish Day Schools. It builds on a nationally recognized Jewish studies program in the School of Arts and Sciences and a nationally recognized, urban-focused teacher education program that develops teacher leaders in the Graduate School of Education.

The Graduate School of Education envisions developing other tracks for teaching in Islamic and Catholic schools once this program is established.

The two unique qualities of this program are that it is located within a preeminent secular university and

that it emphasizes Jewish texts. Students within this strand will take courses with prospective teachers in the larger, secondary education program while specializing in Jewish studies. Beyond the established courses, the new program is developing a seminar on religion and education, open to all students within the university that addresses critical issues in the role of religious education in pluralistic societies.

The program requires a full year commitment, including two summers. In summer one, students will take courses on Jewish texts and courses about teaching and learning. In summer two, students will again pursue study of Jewish texts with an optional to study in Israel.

Program for Teaching in Religious Schools: Jewish Day Schools

DIRECTOR

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

announces a search for the position of director of a new track in its Teacher Education Program for preparing teachers for religious schools. The director will be responsible for developing the first area of this program: a program to prepare teachers in Jewish day schools. We anticipate that the director will work with others to develop at least two other areas in the near future including a program for teachers in Catholic/Christian schools and a program for teachers in Islamic schools.

The director will have the responsibility for establishing the program, hiring lecturers, and recruiting students. The director will have primary responsibility for teaching the fieldwork seminars on teaching in religious schools (including supervision of a masters thesis or portfolio). We anticipate that the director will also teach additional courses in this program and in the teacher education programs at Penn GSE including a new course tentatively titled, Critical Issues in Religious Education within Pluralistic Societies.

The initial track which we plan to develop next year is to prepare teachers for Jewish Day schools. This track, which is closely linked to the traditional secondary teacher education program, prepares prospective teachers to receive certification in a particular field such as English or History with additional coursework in teaching Jewish primary sources (in the original and translation) as windows on Jewish culture and civilization. Further description of the track may be found on the GSE website (www.gse.upenn.edu).

The ideal candidate will have a doctorate in education, Jewish Studies or Religious Studies with a strong commitment and experience in teacher education, although candidates without a doctorate will be considered. Previous experience in Jewish Education is required, as is a broad background in religious education. Evidence of administrative experience is highly desirable.

We will begin reviewing applications immediately and continue until this position is filled.

Send an application letter, resume and 3 references to:

Professor Peter Kuriloff
Chair, Search Committee
Graduate School of Education
University of Pennsylvania
3700 Walnut St.
Phila. PA 19104-6216

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

SHIRA EPSTEIN has written a curriculum for Jewish Women International titled "Strong Girls, Healthy Relationships: A Conversation on Dating, Friendships and Self-Esteem."

ROBERTA LOUIS GOODMAN has been appointed as the Director of Research and Standards for JECEI (Jewish Early Childhood Education Initiative). She continues to serve as adjunct Associate Professor at Siegal College.

BARRY HOLTZ of the Jewish Theological Seminary, has recently published "Education, Translation and the Text" in *Languages and Literatures in Jewish Education: Studies in Honor of Michael Rosenak, Cohen J (Ed), Magnes Press 2006*. **BARRY'S** book "Finding Our Way: Jewish Texts and the Lives We Lead, originally published by Schocken Books in 1991, has been re-published by the Jewish Publication Society, 2005.

CAROL INGALL has become the proud grandmother of Shirley Michaela Hoffman-Ingall, daughter of Neal Hoffman and Andrew Ingall.

JO KAY and **EVIE ROTSTEIN** have a chapter on Jewish Family Education in the forthcoming book: "What we Know About Jewish Family Education" to be published by Torah Aura. **EVIE** also published an article in *Jewish Education News* titled "The Benefits of a Mentoring Community," Summer 2006.

HELENA MILLER has published "Education for Faith: Jewish Schooling and the British Context" in Schreiner P, Elsenbast V and Schweitzer F (eds) (2006) *Europa, Bildung, Religion* Munster: Waxmann

SAUL WACHS tells us that Gratz College has received permission from the State of Pennsylvania to launch a Doctorate in Education next Fall.

The Melton Centre for Jewish Education The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

13th International Conference of
Philosophical Inquiry With Children:

A Meeting Point Between Cultures and Identities

JUNE 4 – 7 2007

Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

<http://melton.huji.ac.il/ICPIC>
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CAJE 32:

ENGAGING 21ST CENTURY JEWISH LEARNERS

August 5 – 9, 2007

Washington University, St. Louis

Keynotes including:

- Who are the 21st Century Jewish Learners?
- Crossing the Technological Divide
- Community as a Tool of Engagement
- Meaning-Making as a Tool of Engagement
- 21st Century Educational Leadership
- Hebrew Language and its Place in the 21st Century Curriculum
- Recruitment and Retention of Jewish Educators

GRANT WRITING SEMINAR sponsored by the Covenant Foundation

EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE at CAJE32

"Our Families, Our Children, Our Future, 21st Century Early Childhood Jewish Education"

Intensive tracks:

- For directors - "Developing Your Jewish Early Childhood Education Program from the Inside Out"
- For teachers - "Emergent Curriculum in the Jewish Early Childhood Environment through Observation, Documentation, Evaluation and Implementation"
- For teachers - "Child-centered Judaically-integrated Programs"

An early childhood Pre-Conference focusing on "Defining Excellence in Early Childhood Jewish Education" will be held from August 2 – 5.

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SHABBAT PROGRAM

August 4 – 5 with scholars including:

Art Green, Reuven Kimelman, Amichai Lau-Lavie, Peter Pitzele and Devorah Zlochowerk

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PRE-CONFERENCE

August 2 – 5

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COALITION PROGRAMS AT CAJE 32

Schusterman College Program
Teen Leadership Kallah

ON LINE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION FOR EVENTS

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